

City of Clearwater

*City Hall
112 S. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 14, 2017

2:00 PM

Council Chambers

Public Art and Design Board

Roll Call

Present 6 - Chair Alex Plisko, Vice Chair Neale A. Stralow, Board Member Karen Cunningham, Board Member Eric Seiler, Board Member Judith B. Powers, and Board Member Jerri Menaul

Absent 1 - Board Member Jennifer Barbaro

Also Present- Kris Koch – Parks Planning & Project Manager, Madai Gutierrez – Recreation Specialist, Patricia O. Sullivan - Board Reporter

Awaiting approval

1. Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall.

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve minutes from June 8, 2017 meeting

Member Menaul moved to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2017 Public Art & Design Board meeting as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda: None

4. New Business Items

4.1 Introduction of new City of Clearwater staff

Parks Planning & Project Manager Kris Koch and Recreation Specialist Madai Gutierrez introduced themselves.

Concerns were expressed that a public art background was an important skill for the board's liaison as the subject was complicated, required careful planning with limited resources, and could not be learned on the job.

It was suggested hurricane damage may negatively impact the City's budget.

Mr. Koch said staff was reviewing existing public art projects; he will report on the public art fund balance.

4.2 Approve a request to access the Public Art Fund in the amount of \$115,000 to supplement the Clearwater Public Library System East Branch Library public art project with a new budget of \$175,000.

Mr. Koch said the scope of the budget was increased to enlarge the sculpture enough to be visible.

Concern was expressed that the sculpture's budget was established previously. St. Petersburg College's contribution to the art piece was questioned. It was stated former liaison Chris Hubbard reported the college would install the pod for the display of the public art. It was felt \$115,000 could be better spent elsewhere.

Concerns were expressed that the board was advised in June that the selection panel would review sculpture proposals during the week of July 24, 2017 and that decision would be presented today, but the Board's designated chair for the panel was not contacted and no information on panel action was provided. It was questioned how the decision was reached to increase the budget by \$115,000.

In response to a suggestion that the Board be represented during the hiring process for the public art position, Mr. Koch said the City was not hiring a public art specialist; a staff member would manage the process and staff was aware of everything they needed to do. Ms. Gutierrez said she was reviewing Mr. Hubbard's binder on the process to choose public art.

It was indicated that managing the process was not sufficient and the Board may as well be abandoned. It was commented that public art knowledge was necessary to interview artists and collect necessary data. It was stated City residents would have to live with the results and a new process may be needed. The board discussed the process to choose the Morningside Recreation Center public art. It was questioned if the City Council had approved the public art for Morningside that was chosen by a panel and approved by the Board. It was stated a Board member usually accompanied Mr. Hubbard's presentation to City Council for approval of a public art piece to verify the Board's process.

Mr. Koch said he had received Guy Kemper's contract and Certificate of Insurance invoice; all approvals to move forward had been received.

Mr. Koch said the Library Director had requested direction re the base of the public art piece at the Main Library. It was thought that project was completed.

4.3 Review the Second Century Studios gallery space

Mr. Koch said it was important that the Board was aware of the Second Century Studios gallery space at Water's Edge which will provide updates on City projects and improve citizen awareness.

It was recommended that the Imagine Clearwater project feature a public art piece at Coachman Park.

5. Old Business Item

5.1 Review the status and timeline of artwork for the ongoing Clearwater Public Library System East Branch Library

Concern was expressed that the Board was provided no information re the artwork.

5.2 Review the status and timeline of artwork for the Garden Avenue Garage Mural

Ms. Gutierrez said she spoke to Economic Development Coordinator Laura Canary re the Garden Avenue Garage mural but had received no details.

Information on the artist and mural subject was requested. It was noted the \$20,000 mural budget covered the art installation using UV paint and sealer, requirements familiar to those with public art expertise. It was stated that mural installation was a complicated process. Concerns were expressed that the selection panel was scheduled for the week of June 26, 2017, the proposal was to be presented to the Board today, and the Board's designated chair had not been contacted.

It was recommended that the meeting be reconvened after staff had an opportunity to provide a status report re selection of the mural's artist and subject.

Member Stralow moved to schedule a meeting of the Public Art & Design Board on October 26, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. to provide time for staff to report on the status of the Public Art budget, ongoing projects, board mandates, and to discuss Board required input and if the Board could move forward. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

It was noted the Board needed information re future City projects, such as new fire stations, the Emergency Operations Center, Countryside Sports Complex, etc. to anticipate future public art project budgets as well as continuation of Sculpture360. Summaries were requested re status of public art and contracts for the East Library sculpture, Garden Avenue mural, and Morningside Recreation Center public art.

It was stated the Mayor had requested the Board make a 5-minute presentation to the City Council this fall. It was noted that Mr. Hubbard had helped prepare a member for previous presentations.

6. Director's Report: None

7. Board Members to be Heard: None.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Chair
Public Art & Design Advisory Board

Attest:

Board Reporter